

SENATE FISH AND GAME  
EXHIBIT NO. 17  
DATE 1/20/11  
BILL NO. SB 144



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joelle Selk and I am the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Montana Bowhunters Association. We oppose SB 144, as it undermines successful relocation attempts within Montana which would benefit bison herds.

Montana has a sustainable population of bison, and we feel selective restoration efforts in new locations will further ensure diverse and viable bison populations. If bison are transplanted to carefully selected locations, we can minimize conflicts with cattle and private property owners.

The relocation and management of bison should be determined by the FWP commission not through legislation. This bill targets the quarantined bison, but it also applies to other potential Fish, Wildlife, and Parks bison restoration efforts as well. SB 144 prevents ongoing efforts to expand the options for managing bison within Montana, and its intent runs counter to the desires of Montana sportsmen. We urge you to vote "do not pass" to this legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joelle Selk  
1<sup>st</sup> VP - MBA